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WINTER, NEVIN O. *Chile and Her People of To-day*. Pp. xii, 411. Price, \$3.00.
Boston: L. C. Page & Co., 1912.

This book aims to give a comprehensive survey of what constitutes modern Chile. A great many topics, more or less diverse, demand attention, and the author apparently has found some trouble in weaving them together. There are many places where the discussion is decidedly choppy reading.

After an introductory chapter on the country as a whole, the author wedges in a chapter on the west coast of South America. The application of this matter to Chile and her people is not always obvious. Valparaiso, Santiago, the southern agricultural zone, Tierra del Fuego, the Andine Cordillera, the mineral zone of northern Chile, the people, the Araucanians, education and arts, transportation, religious influences, three chapters on history, and a summary of present conditions and future possibilities, are the heads under which the narrative is subdivided.

Mistakes and misleading statements occur everywhere. Examples may be cited. "Fine bays and harbors" (p. vi, preface) are certainly not conspicuous along the coast for 1,500 miles south of Arica. The rest of the coast is of little or no consequence anyway. "It is said that the foreign population (of Valparaiso) almost equals the natives in numbers" (p. 50). The latest census (1907) gives Valparaiso, natives 146,000; foreigners, 13,000. "Talca has plenty of rainfall" (p. 94). The irrigation ditches about Talca, and the meteorological records giving a mean annual rainfall of seventeen inches with an average of forty rainy days per year, do not support this statement. Constitucion is at the mouth of the Rio Maule, not the "River Talcahuano" (p. 103). It is very doubtful whether the primeval forest "extended along the coast as far as Valparaiso" (p. 115). A rainfall of sixteen inches yearly, and limited largely to the winter, will not support a forest in the latitude of Valparaiso. A glimpse of the lumber yards at the railroad stations from Pillanlelburn southward creates the impression that the "important lumber industry" is not "still awaiting development" (p. 116). The province of Cautin alone has two score sawmills. Chilean Patagonia can never "exceed in fertility and wealth the broad leagues of rich plain between the Andes and the Atlantic" (p. 119). The approximate southern limit of known nitrate lands is south of Taltal and not "near Antofagasta" (p. 181). The nitrate oficinas refine only a part of their iodine not "to keep up the price" (p. 184), but because the so-called iodine trust allots each oficina its annual share, and no more than this can be disposed of. The British is not the "most numerous nationality other than Spanish" (p. 208) that has entered Chile. The census of 1907 gives: Italians, 13,000; Germans, 10,700; British, 9,800. The gold peso has a fixed value of thirty-six cents United Sates currency (18d. English), not thirty-two cents as stated on p. 376.

Along with these mistakes and many others which can be similarly challenged, there is much of good in the book. But the person who does not know Chile can not sift out the bad, from which much misinformation and many false ideas about Chile are sure to be obtained. A very poor map and some mediocre illustrations do nothing to improve the quality of a book which seems to be suffering from hasty or careless preparation.

University of Chicago.

WALTER S. TOWER.